

material of the Iowan fossils by silica has taken place only in certain parts, forming a number of siliceous boxes, as it were, which are either hollow or more or less filled with chalcedony or crypto-crystalline silica. They are therefore neither casts nor impressions, and details of structure are frequently destroyed.

Petalocrinus is shown to have a dicyclic base—not monocyclic, as originally described. The structure of the tegmen is shown to be that of the Cyathocrinoidea. The arm-fans characteristic of the genus are proved to have been formed by fusion of the branches of an arm of Cyathocrinid type. In them, description is given for the first time of axial canals, covering-plates, the articular facet, and various minor structures. The species *P. major*, Weller, is shown to be an *Omphyma*; but *P. mirabilis*, Weller, the genotype, is redescribed, and with it five new species—two from Iowa; three, as well as a possible mutation of one of them, from Gotland. A family Petalocrinidæ, descended from the Cyathocrinidæ, probably by way of *Arachnocrinus*, is founded for the reception of this genus.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Generic Name Thylacomys. By EDGAR R. WAITE.

SINCE revising the proofs of my article "Observations on Muridæ from Central Australia"*, I find that the name *Thylacomys* may be in jeopardy. Though not contained in the classic catalogues of Agassiz and Scudder, and therefore apparently available, it has yet made an appearance, if an accidental one, in literature.

A footnote in the 'British Museum Catalogue of Marsupialia' (pp. 221-222) reads as follows:—"Blyth (Cuv. An. K. p. 104, 1840) states that Prof. Owen had separated off 'The Philander, *Perameles lagotis*,' as a genus under the name of *Thylacomys*. I am, however, quite unable to find any distinction of the genus in Prof. Owen's papers, and therefore retain the well-known name [*Peragale*] given to the genus by Gray. Blyth's statement was, perhaps, based on a confused account of Gray's *Thylamys elegans* (= *Didelphys elegans*), a member of the group of Opossums to which the latter author applied the name of 'Philander.'"

I am unable to verify Thomas's quotation in the original (1840) edition; but in the only two editions available to me, namely 1849 (p. 104) and 1863 (p. 92), the genus is rendered *Thalacomys*, not *Thylacomys*.

Australian Museum, Sydney,
10th May, 1898.

* Proc. Roy. Soc. Victoria, x. (new series) 1898, pp. 114-128.